

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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1-1988

## Volume 16, Number 5

Post Amerikan

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Don't miss the Post benefit—see page 7

Bloomington-Normal

25¢

# POST AMERICAN

Vol 16 No. 5

Jan-Feb. 1988



# AIDS

## Testing:

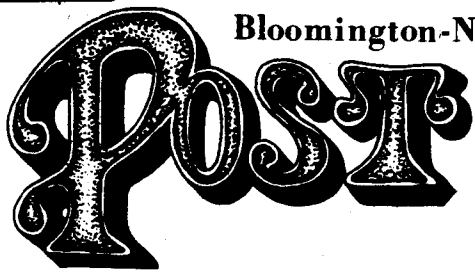
**“for *better***

**or worse?”**

D.P.H.

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BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

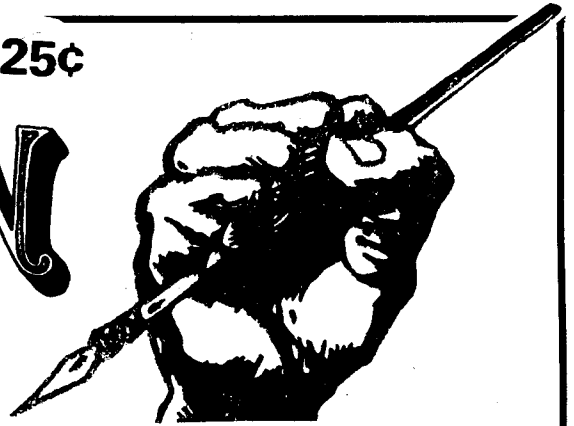
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
POST AMERICAN  
POST OFFICE BOX 3452  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702



Bloomington-Normal



25¢



- Page 3.....A Visit to Electric Coffee. The Post visits Normal's new coffee house.
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## Hello, is anybody out there?

Yet again, a new problem has reared its ugly head in the Post Amerikan office. Our all-important telephone answering machine has self-destructed just like those tapes Peter Graves would play on Mission: Impossible!

So, if you've called the Post recently, you may have thought you left a message, but our machine believed otherwise. Guess who's right.

We are currently investigating the possibility of sabotage--part of a diabolical master plan by one of our archenemies to cripple our

## Good numbers

Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-5049  
American Civil Liberties Union..454-7223  
Bloomington Housing Authority..829-3360  
Clare House (Catholic Workers)..828-4035  
Community for Social Action....452-4867  
Connection House.....829-5711  
Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005  
Dept. Children/Family Services..828-0022  
Draft Counseling.....452-5046  
HELP (transportation for senior citizens, handicapped).....828-8301  
Ill. Dept of Public Aid.....827-4621  
Ill. Lawyer Referral.....800-252-8916  
Kaleidoscope.....828-7346  
McLean Co. Health Dept.....454-1161  
Mid Central Community Action...829-0691  
Mobile Meals.....828-8301  
McLean County Center for Human Services.....827-5351  
National Health Care Services--abortion assistance, 1-800-322-1622  
Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195  
Occupational Development Center.....828-7324  
Operation Recycle.....829-0691  
Parents Anonymous.....827-4005  
PATH: Personal Assistance Telephone Help.....827-4005  
Or.....800-322-5015  
Phone Friends.....827-4008  
Planned Parenthood....medical..827-4014  
bus/couns/educ..827-4368  
Post Amerikan.....828-7232  
Prairie State Legal Service....827-5021  
Prairie Alliance.....828-8249  
Project Oz.....827-0377  
Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005  
Sunnyside Neighborhood Center..827-5428  
TeleCare (senior citizens).....828-8301  
Unemployment comp/job service..827-6237  
United Farmworkers support.....452-5046  
UPIC.....827-4026

ability to bring you a quality alternative press that prints the kind of BS you're reading. Among our list of suspects: the contras, Gen Tel (Pheobe's top suspect), all right-to-life groups, Jerry Falwell, Pope John Paul John Paul, the upper echelons of the Reagan administration, the lower echelons of the Reagan administration, and the well-known 19th-century jurist Robert Bork. But on the other hand, could it beeeee . . . SATAN?!

(The previous joke was thrown in exclusively for Ferdydruke's enjoyment. If you read it and you are not Ferdydruke, please forget it immediately and remove the line from your newspaper.)

Whether or not we uncover the true culprit, we are left without an answering machine. If there is a loyal reader out there that can contribute a used answering machine to help us defeat this unforgiving sneak attack, we'd sure appreciate it. If you don't have a machine to donate, please consider sending in a special financial contribution to our "We Sure Love To Hear From You Fund" to help us purchase a new one.

In the meantime, please leave messages for the Post with Bill at 829-7617.

--The Post Staff

## Moving?

When you move, be sure to send us your new address so your subscription gets to you. Your Post Amerikan will not be forwarded (it's like junk mail--no kidding!). Fill out this handy form with your new address and return it to us, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or down played by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media.

We put out six issues a year. Staff members take turns as "coordinator." All writing, typing, editing, graphics, photography, pasteup, and distribution are done on a volunteer basis. You are invited to volunteer your talents.

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, letters, and news tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 827-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while--we don't meet every week.

An alternative newspaper depends very directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe it is very important to keep a newspaper like this around. If you think so too, then please support us by telling your friends about the paper, donating money to the printing of the paper, and telling our advertisers you saw their ad in the Post Amerikan.

The next deadline for submitting Post material is Thursday, March 17. Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed.

## Thanks

This issue in your hands is thanks to Bill; Bob; Bumper; Cara; Cathy; Deb; Deborah; Laurie; Margaret; Melissa; Ralph; Sue F.; Sue L.; Susie; Val (coordinator); our special bused-in help from Dekalb--Don, Jill, Lynn, and Tom; and probably others that we forgot.

A special thanks to Mark for all his work in organizing the benefit and to Marilaurice for her continued emotional and financial support.

## Post Sellers

### BLOOMINGTON

Amtrak Station, 1200 W. Front  
The Back Porch, 402 N. Main  
Bakery Banc, 901 N. Main  
Bloomington Public Library (in front)  
Bus Depot, 533 N. East  
Common Ground, 516 N. Main  
Convenient Mart, Emerson and Main  
Front and Center Building  
Hit Shed, 606 N Main  
Hungry House, 103 W. Jefferson  
Law and Justice Center, W. Front St.  
Lee St. (100 N.)  
Main and Miller Streets  
Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison  
Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park  
Mr. Donut, 1310 N. Park  
Pantagraph (in front),  
301 W. Washington  
The Park Store, Wood & Allin  
People's Drugs, Oakland & Morrissey  
Red Fox, 918 W. Market  
Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main  
U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire  
(at exit)  
U.S. Post Office, Center & Monroe  
Upper Cut, 409 N. Main  
Wash House, 609 N. Clinton  
Washing Well, E. Front St.

### NORMAL

Avanti's, 407 S. Main  
Big Rudy's, 107 E. Beaufort  
ISU University Union, 2nd floor  
Hovey Hall, ISU (in front)  
Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north  
Mother Murphy's, 111 North St.  
North & Broadway, southeast corner  
White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway  
(in front)

Who  
Loves  
You  
Like  
Your  
Mama  
Do?

## A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a close-up of a person's face. The image is heavily shadowed and distorted, with a dark, textured background. The face appears to be wearing a mask or has a very dark, textured skin. The lighting is harsh, creating deep shadows and bright highlights. The overall effect is grainy and abstract, with a focus on the textures and shapes of the face and background.

*Compassion Rules the Destruction of the Regime, 1986-1987*  
computer/robotic assisted acrylic on canvas, 90 x 120½ inches

# Changing and Unchanged

Wolf Moon by Cris Williamson  
Don't Hold Back by Holly Near

1987 saw the release of new albums by two of the founding mothers of women's music, Cris Williamson and Holly Near. Williamson is best known for recording The Changer and the Changed way back in the early 1970s, which went on to become the best selling album in the women's music genre, and for a good reason. It remains as moving today as ever.

Near is best known for, well, for being Holly Near. A dedicated social activist, Near has recorded 13 albums which chronicle the evolution of her personal and political commitments, from Viet Nam and Chile to women's issues to environmental concerns.

Some may view Near as a political trendy, but close examination of her work reveals a sense of continuity and personal growth through the years, which is, regrettably, more than can be said about Williamson.

Wolf Moon, Williamson's latest offering, is another step down the somewhat bland and mediocre path she's been pursuing with her last several solo efforts. Still affected by a childhood in the mountains, Williamson focuses on holistic, mother earth images, lots of water and sky, and yes, wolves. But the wolf theme is stretched beyond its limits, and the holistic vibe seems out of place against the repetitive pseudo-technopop groove laid down by musical cohort Tret Fure.

## Death themes

Death is another prominent theme on this album, with a song for singer-songwriter Kate Wolf, who died last year, and another about the death of Natalie Wood. This listener finds the latter, "Goodnight Marjorie Morningstar," very uncomfortable to listen to.

While Williamson is obviously a fan and deeply affected by the thought of Wood dying alone in dark waters, the song is not about what the child star meant to young girls growing up in that era, or about the symbolic meaning of her passing, but the actual death itself: "The glass of wine shatters, the scorpion stings, you're over the side now . . ." and in another verse, "The lights are all dizzy, there's a storm in your brain, the wolf tone is sounding the waves' dark refrain."

I guess I just don't want to experience this every time I put the album on. Maybe it's a comment on Williamson's songwriting ability that she can draw the images that create those vibrations, or maybe it's just plain bad taste, but in the end it doesn't matter--the effect is the same.

## Nice cuts

There are some nice things to be heard on this album. "Home Free" and "Stilletto" are both fine cuts, and the music is appropriate for the lyrics. There's a surprising but nicely done cover of "Come Go With Me." (What, no wolf covers? I was hoping for "Werewolves of London" and "Clap for the Wolfman.") The interplay of the voices of Cris Williamson and Tret Fure is a treat throughout, as anyone who has seen them perform together can attest, but it isn't quite enough to make this a real success.

There is a sense of commonality between Wolf Moon and Don't Hold Back, Holly Near's latest. No, they aren't both about wolves. But both rely more on the studio this time around, with varying degrees of success. While Williamson gets hung up on a certain kind of sound and tries to force her songs into it, Near takes better advantage of the available technology and musicians, giving each song a more unique treatment.

Additionally, they both avoid overtly

political messages on these albums. While that isn't exactly new for Williamson, Holly Near avoiding the chance to make a political statement seems unbelievable. But wait, there may be a method to this madness. We hope.

## No politics

Don't Hold Back is a slick, toe-tapping pop album. If you're expecting "Hang In There," "Sister, Woman, Sister," or "Fight Back," you'll be disappointed. But if you just like to hear Holly Near sing, then this record gives you a chance to hear her working out with some of LA's top session musicians on a collection of apolitical but not politically incorrect love songs. There may even be a few politically correct messages hidden away in the lyrics.

If this is just another stage in Near's evolution, there's really not much wrong with Don't Hold Back. Produced by Kenny Loggins, Near gets a chance to throw her head back and sing, and, after everything she has offered in the past, we can give her this. Next time we might not be so forgiving. Some of us who caught her on the Nashville Network, where an unsuspecting audience was allowed to think Near was just another country diva with a hot set of pipes, are a little worried. But we've hung in there for Near before and weren't disappointed.

## Slick and different

The major differences between Wolf Moon and Don't Hold Back are not so much in the albums themselves but in the artists. On the surface, Wolf Moon is sort of slick and bland, and Don't Hold

Back is sort of slick and interesting. But the real differences can be seen by looking at the body of work from each artist.

Over the years Williamson's work has not really evolved, her songs becoming repetitive and uninteresting. To compound the problem, she has associated with only a handful of musicians, and while there's something to be said for loyalty, she suffers from a lack of creative input from others.

## Growing and changing

On the other hand, while Near's changes aren't always easy to swallow, she is always moving and changing, yet always unmistakably Holly Near. She has associated with a wide variety of creative people and grown from the association.

If recording a pop album with Kenny Loggins and appearing on the Nashville Network means more people are exposed to Near, then perhaps more people will hear "Fight Back" and "Hay Una Mujer," and she will have more power to record people like Ronnie Gilbert, Trapezoid, and Inti-Ilimanti. This is what they mean by "empowerment."

Holly Near is using the system to change the system. If nothing else, she's given us a great sounding album of politically correct love songs with a sense of humor, and that sure beats most of the records on my shelf. We can only hope that her next album is full of great sounding political songs.

--L. H.

## Post letters

Dear Ones,  
This is exactly how this package arrived in my mailbox?!?!?!?!?!?!?!  
Sort of reminds me of the old days living in the Abyss when F.B.I. agent Art Wood would steal our copies of Black Panther News--sigh.

Enclosed is \$10--let's try again.

--Bear

Typist's note: Bear enclosed the empty package which should have contained his T-shirt.

Dear Post friends,  
It's been a while and I don't know if the reader of this letter recognizes my name. It's a sure bet that a volunteer staff has a high turnover. In any event, I used to be a regular writer. I've had a few articles published in the Post with my by-line. Once, a full page!

So, I'm still in the N.C. State Pen., and I don't have the four dollars for a sub, but I was wondering if I could be comped an issue or two till I get on my feet??

Thanks for considering my request. I'll be feeling a lot better after I get my Post Amerikan. I really miss 'em.

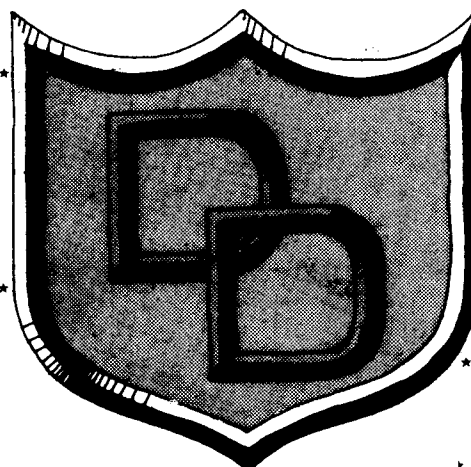
And how about this? I promise to give you another newsworthy half page or better for space filler in the upcoming holiday season. Hey, I wouldn't lie! And wishing everybody the best

In the struggle,

--Hop

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# Watkins' resignation

## --A personal view

The morning edition of the Pantagraph (01/14/88) carried a front page article concerning the resignation of ISU president Lloyd Watkins. Although I do not want to condemn the university president or his resignation, I would like to share my opinion on the subject.

I am a university employee and have witnessed the workings of "internal ISU" for some time now. From my point of view, a large part of our problems are caused by an endless squabble between greedy administrators and selfish faculty and a total neglect of the needs of the civil service staff and the students.

### The budget fiasco

Watkins' house of cards fell in on him this year as a result of a disgruntled faculty and a stubborn legislature. Watkins had repeatedly informed the ISU community and the state that unless a tax increase was implemented, higher education would suffer. In his State of the University address in September, Watkins stated, "In education as in most things, you get what you pay for."

Although Lloyd worked to get more funding and to inspire the staff to write to the legislature, it did little good.

The legislative veto last July did not just fail to grant budget increases. It cut the university operating budget to \$14.69 million, approximately \$1.56 million less than fiscal year '87.

Please note the words "operating budget"--these words turned into "tuition increase" to the tune of \$150 per student per semester. However, the phrase "tuition increase" was misinterpreted by some faculty members to mean "pay raise," "research money," "doctoral programs," and "increased room space."

ISU appropriations come from two areas--general revenue dollars (such as taxes) and income fund dollars (such as tuition). The increase in tuition will increase the income fund by \$3 million. These funds are to be used to return the base budget to last year's level and to meet cost increases. To complicate things (and I think this is really stupid), income dollars earned in excess of the year's income appropriation may not be spent in the year earned but may be carried into the next year. (Confused yet?)

### Whining faculty

Anyway, when it was discovered that the tuition hike would not result in a pay raise, the faculty threw up their arms and began to publicly criticize President Watkins' ability to handle the university operating budget. They began screaming about research money, graduate program funds, lack of classroom space, and no pay increase. "Where does all the money go?" they whined.

Well, dear faculty, I think you're still getting a pretty substantial share of the pie. After all, department research funds have increased by over 82% over the past three years.

And don't forget that the renovations of Cook Hall, Williams Hall, and the Huddleson building are resulting in an increase of 30,000 square feet for instructional space. The current top priority for additional space is the remodeling of Feil Hall; this will add approximately 38,000 square feet of space. Also the addition of the new Ropp building contains 14,980 square feet of classroom and laboratory space.

It is true that the salaries of faculty at all Illinois public universities are an average of 3.9 percent below the medians of comparable groups nationwide. But on the other hand, the average salary for ISU regular line faculty in fiscal year '87 was \$31,000. (Please note that this average does not include about one-third of the faculty who are on temporary lines.) This figure does not include the faculty's little extras like book royalties, research funds, and sabbatical funds. I don't know about you, but I could use that kind of money.

### Staff ignored

As a member of the state civil service staff, I do not take lightly the criticisms of those who benefit the most from others' efforts. I have heard the same budget gripes since I started working at ISU. As long as the university faculty and staff act like they're powerless against the state, then there is nothing we can do.

I like President Watkins. I have always felt his pride in the university. I have not appreciated the size of his salary (over \$70,000), the home on the edge of the country club, the car he is supplied with, the catering of social gatherings by John Green, the trips to foreign lands, and the free country club membership.

I love the university. I am honored and proud to be an employee here. What I am unhappy about is that the civil service staff are always being addressed and informed last, are always being taken for granted, are always treated as being less than the faculty, and are always having difficulty in obtaining funds for supplies, equipment, and the replacement of worn out equipment. (Did you know that ISU

has classroom equipment that dates back to the 1950s?)

### Vicious Greed

The point I'm trying to make is that selfish individuals try to destroy everything else just to make themselves better off.

It's a vicious circle. You want a tax increase for education, yet you know it's going to come out of your pocket too.

If you raise tuition instead of taxes, you will have more people who can't attend the university without financial aid. And of course, Uncle Ronnie's taking care of financial aid for you. What we're getting is education by and for the rich if you ask me.

WE ARE ONLY CUTTING OUR OWN THROATS! Maybe some day we will all wake up to the fact that everyone has a right to a fair share in our society's wealth. If we allow people to be selfish, then we must accept some ugly consequences. For example, should we accept the consequence that a university president is permitted to reap so much in benefits while others get next-to-nothing or nothing at all? Should we allow selfish behavior to let us make certain people so special that we treat them as though they were godlike?

I feel that it's only fair that the bigshots earning the big money should give a little of it back--by repaying school loans, by not cheating on or avoiding their taxes, and by being realistic when they give themselves a pay raise. Maybe then we wouldn't have such a mess.

Then again, maybe it's true what they say--"Money makes the world go 'round."

It's not Lloyd Watkins I blame for my own personal gripes, but I do blame us as a selfish, greedy society. We always look for what's in it for us rather than have pride in the fact that what we do now may improve life for many generations to come.

Good luck, Lloyd. Maybe going back into teaching will give you some peace of mind. (You wouldn't also consider going back to the lower salary, would you?)

--Bear

CLIP & SAVE



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Operation Recycle is a not-for-profit community recycling center,  
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# Constitution loses ground

I have often been accused of "believing in the Easter Bunny"--which is kind of like being an optimist's optimist, the kind of person Anne Frank would have been proud of. As such, I have been looking forward to 1988. I thought it would be a good year, certainly better than 1987, and possibly the best year the 80s had to offer.

It was Easter Bunny time. I realize that now. Only two weeks into 1988 and it has already shown itself to be another year we will be lucky just to get through at all.

I lost faith in our political system during the 1980 presidential election and wrote about my disillusionment on the pages of this very newspaper. (It was the first time I had been accused of the Bunny thing.) So I've known for a while that the executive branch is not the best place to look to see Democracy In Action.

I learned not to trust the Congress from watching television. C-Span--the cable network that broadcasts all the proceedings from the House of Representatives--crushed my visions of Capitol Hill. I'm not sure people should be allowed to watch what goes on in the legislative branch.

But I continued to have faith in the Supreme Court. The judicial branch, it seemed to me, was basically okay. The Court had, after all, given us *Miranda*, *Roe v. Wade*, and a myriad of sound, sensible decisions. Then came 1988.

## Jackson committee started

The summer of 1987 saw the formation of a local extension of the Jesse Jackson '88 Presidential Campaign Committee. Consisting of about 15 members, the committee is composed of people from various backgrounds and issues. For many of the group, this is the first participation in electoral politics. The group's initial activity was in September, 1987, when the former mayor of Gary, Indiana, Richard Hatcher, spoke at a conference and fundraiser. Hatcher coordinated Jackson's 1984 presidential bid.

Current activities of the group center around collecting nominating petitions for delegates to the Democratic Convention in Atlanta. This Congressional District is entitled to four delegates out of the Illinois primary, and each delegate is required to submit 400 signatures of registered voters. Hatcher indicated that Illinois will be very important given the state's primary date--one week after Super Tuesday. The group plans voter registration and campaigning as major activities leading to the primary.

The group supports Jackson because they feel he is the only candidate willing and able to stop inhuman domestic and foreign policy. For instance, Jackson is the only candidate talking about substantial cuts (20%) in military spending. On Central America, he is not only against any support for the Contra mercenaries (going so far as to admit

I awoke one fateful morning in January to find that my Supreme Court--the branch of government I root for as strongly and as solidly as I root for the Green Bay Packers or the Los Angeles Lakers--had finally gone the way of the rest of the federal government and had let me down. Big time.

It had decided that freedom of the press (which is one of the biggies--one of the ones folks really did die for) does not apply to high school newspapers. That's right: Freedom of the press does not apply to high school newspapers.

I was stunned. I continue to be stunned.

It seemed such a logical, clear-cut case, one that should have been an 8-0 decision in favor of the paper. Instead, in this year of "everything will get better now, just wait and see," the Court handed down a 5-3 decision against the paper.

The paper's attorney said that the kids had gone to court expecting a lesson in Civics, but that this was not the lesson he had hoped they would be taught. No kidding.

Teenagers in this country have no rights of privacy (school officials can pillage students' lockers and cars whenever the whim strikes), no rights of free expression (students can be forced to remove ear rings and can be

it is a U.S. waged war), he would cut off aid to gross violators of human rights such as Guatemala and El Salvador and reverse the U.S. militarism in Honduras.

Worldwide, Jackson is able to shed media-contrived prejudices and call repression "repression," no matter where it occurs. Thus, Jackson has always supported a voice for the Palestinian people, whose suffering, as recent events show, is just as desperate as the people's suffering in South Africa. This is in sharp contrast to other candidates; for instance, Paul Simon recently voted for a bill to close the Palestinian missions in Washington and at the U.N. Beyond this, Jackson can see the connection between the U.S. economy and repressive regimes. The repression of a people allows slave wages to be paid. This permits huge profits for business operating in that country, and attracts development away from the U.S. Beyond this, with not even subsistence wages, such a people cannot develop or afford the fruits of development themselves.

This unity by Jackson with workers around the world is also matched by unity with workers in the U.S. Unlike other candidates Jackson has stood on the picket line with steelworkers in Pittsburgh, cannery workers in Watsonville, CA., and farmers in Iowa, to name a few. As he argued in a New York Times editorial, black should not have

barred from taking a same sex date to the prom), no rights of free speech (schools can dictate what slogans can appear on kids' t-shirts and what plays the drama club can put on).

And now, thanks to the Supreme Court, we find they have no right of a free press, either.

Adolescents are granted limited rights in other areas. They have the right to purchase birth control from the time they are 12, but (at least in Illinois) they are forbidden by law from sexual activity until they are 17. They have the right to drive a car, but they must be home by 11:00 at night. They have the right to be supported by their parents until they turn 18, but there are millions of kids younger than that who are living on the streets because their parents threw them out. They have the right to a free, public education, but they are denied access to certain subjects, certain concepts, certain books.

Ah, to be 16 again.

Well, at least they know now. Thanks to some kids in Missouri who wanted their day in court (and their articles in print) we are now clear on the status adolescents have in the eyes of the U.S. Constitution.

And they wonder why teenagers kill themselves.

--Deborah Wiatt

to fight white for a job. So impassioned is his message, and so clearly does he speak for justice, that Jackson even received a standing ovation by the Idaho state legislature this past fall.

The group sees many positive things arising from the Jackson campaign. First, it increases participation by the disenfranchised in the U.S., providing more leverage for progressive issues. For example, the 1984 bid is said to have registered over one million new voters, mostly in the South. In 1986, the South elected candidates less conservative than before, helping the Democratic party to gain control of the Senate. In 1987, with the votes of these new Senators, Robert Bork was rightfully denied a seat on the Supreme Court. There is also, of course, the chance that Jackson will be nominated as the Democratic candidate. In 1984 Jackson received 21% of the vote. This year, Jackson is far ahead of everyone but Gary Hart in the latest polls. Finally, win or lose, the local committee hopes to organize as a community and link together progressive voices.

If anyone is interested in helping the committee, please contact one of the co-chairs, either Carrol Cox (820-3701) or Willie Halvert (662-2526). There is much work to be done!

--Steve Ullom

## Post readership silenced! Conservative plot?

Last issue, we announced our "Deface This Billboard" contest. Our back cover graced a computer-generated facsimile of a tacky anti-abortion billboard that has soiled our fair community. You were asked to send in your suggestions for appropriate captions that a daring graffiti vigilante could use to make this billboard more palatable.

We knew that the response to our "Deface This Billboard" contest would be overwhelming. After all, when a free year's subscription of the *Post Amerikan*--your community newspaper--was put up for grabs, who could resist sending us lines like:

"This is the only stage of life that can enjoy Debbie Boone singing 'You Light Up My Life'" and

"Would rather be aborted than be related to Ed Meese."

It is my sad duty to report that we did not receive those hundreds of thousands of one-liners you must have sent. (You did remember to mail them, didn't you?) Knowing the strong community support that we at the *Post* receive from you, we can only conclude that a diabolical conservative plot intercepted your entries before they reached our post office box.

(We have other evidence that the conservative forces are mounting against us. See "Hello, is there anybody out there?" elsewhere in this issue.)

But our unknown adversary is not

infallible! One--yes, one entry escaped the destructive clutches of conservatism and arrived in our PO box unscathed.

So our thanks and a year's subscription go to Michelle Elsbury of Carlinville, IL, who was clever enough to figure out how to avoid this cold, cruel conservative plot to keep us from our readers. And Michelle, we at the *Post* loved your suggested billboard caption:

"Gee mom, just think of all the money you could have given Jerry Falwell!"

Keep those cards and letters coming!

--The Balrog

# BENEFIT

featuring things by

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mark valentine

jesus on a ten-speed  
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## Post Benefit scheduled

Robinson's and Electric Coffee will be jointly hosting a benefit for the Post Amerikan on Thursday, January 28. Live music, good times, and great people are scheduled to appear.

Everyone is welcome at Electric Coffee, but at Robinson's we must diligently obey the laws covering the consumption of alcoholic beverages. So please bring your ID to be admitted into Robinson's. The odds are pretty good that our buddies at the Bloomington police station will once again drop by to laugh at the funny picture on your driver's license.

Yes, we know that the ink on our newspaper will barely be dry when we have this benefit. But you frenzied fans buy the Post Amerikan the very instant it appears in those little red boxes, don't you?

And if you didn't pick up this issue until after the benefit, no problem. Drop by Robinson's and Electric Coffee anytime to enjoy the food, drink, and people at these fine establishments. Please let them know you appreciate their support of the Post. We sure do.

--The Post Staff

## DON'T BLINK OR YOU'LL MISS IT

## There's no place like home and you can't go back

When I finally learned the date of the Gallery's long awaited reopening, I was breathless with anticipation. The old Gallery was the physical site of many of my best "good old days" memories, my social mecca for almost eight years. In those days, I could walk in The Gallery and know almost everyone there. I felt like Zelda Fitzgerald. Friendships were spawned in the waiting line at the restroom and flirtations were chalked up over games of pool.

But the best of all encounters were those brought to life on the dance floor. I saw countless wonderful bands there, used to dance up an oily, defiantly unlady-like sweat, and on occasion, the entire floor of dancers would be caught up in a sweet, mesmerizing, single-minded rhythm; a communal fuck without the embarrassing consequences. I would close my eyes and lose my sense of self, following the swell of the music. For a while, all we had to do was breathe; our bodies moved by their own direction, independent of our brains.

I experienced the role of the catalyst at the Gallery, too---as a part of one of the bands. When the conditions were right, the music could make strange things happen---strangers were pleasant to each other, feet could fly, humans would make odd hooting or howling noises and at the end of it all, someone would hand us a wad of money---it was all too weird.

The demise of the old Gallery in 1985 seemed (pass the Geritol, please) almost a metaphor for the loss of youthful vigor in my own life. It was a bad year for me, 1985. Without the Gallery, I no longer had a social focus. Where would I go? Rocky's? Loud, drunken jerks and jerkettes were everywhere. It was the same all over town. There was just no place for me to fit in. Then, one by one, friends who were crucial to my happiness moved out of town. The band I was in broke up. I couldn't deny it any longer. Those devil-may-care days of stealing donuts from the donut shop dumpster were gone.

Everything was conspiring to change me into an old fogey. I stopped getting carded at liquor stores. I started to think about things like taxes and software and sofa upholstery. Symptomatic of my downward spiral, I killed off the heroine of my own comic strip here in the Post Amerikan.

When I heard about the new Gallery, I thought it was just a cruel rumor. And for months, that's all it amounted to. But when it finally came to pass, I thought I was going to get some relief from my stodgy existence. So I ran down there with my cover charge money clenched in my fist, worrying that the new owner may have converted it into another sports bar. But I was wrong. The new Gallery looked just like the old Gallery---no, better, even.

It was all so familiar. The room was softly lit and noisy with conversation and music. That spongey old shag carpeting was still underfoot. They put up TV monitors in each of the rooms showing a live tape of the band on stage. They took down those old hideous paintings and replaced them with nice framed posters of Rock 'n' Roll heroes. There was a new exciting menu of oriental snacks (but I'm one of the ones who always liked Spike's pizza). All this and more. But I was heading for a fall. And even though the doorman had the courtesy to card me, misery lay beyond that threshold.

I don't know what I expected---maybe for everyone to cheer when I walked through the door. Don't get me wrong. Everyone was in high spirits. Having fun in their own personal groups, writing their own social history. I didn't even know one of them. So I left. I was afraid of what would happen if I put away a few drinks. I might have leaned into the guy on the barstool next to me and started a pitiful, slurry, misremembered monologue.

"You wouldn't know it to look at me now, but I was once in a band that used to play here. Oh, the crowds *adored* us. Sometimes they made us play *fifteen* encores. Young men threw their underwear at the stage. Young women idolized us. Or was it the other way 'round? Yes, I believe somebody even wrote a book about us. Yes, I remember now, it won an Oscar. Oh, I was quite a *lively dancer*! Bartender, another Boilemmaker for me and my friend here! Whad'ja say your name was, honey?"

--LVD

# ROBINSON'S

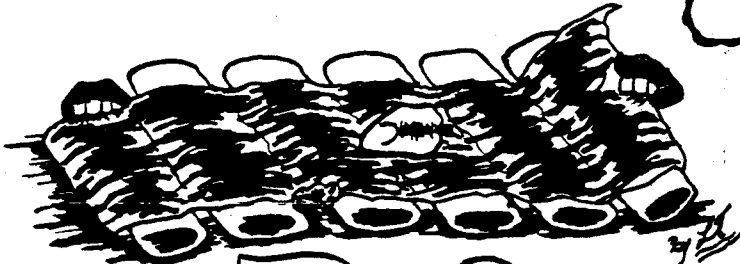
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# Your HIV status-- Do

In its infinite capacity to squander our resources, the state of Illinois now requires you to take an AIDS antibody test before you may receive a marriage license. At a huge cost, we will test thousands of already sexually active heterosexual couples. As usual, the breeders in the legislature are only interested in "protecting" their own. Of course, it's interesting that this so-called "protection" assumes that the soon-to-be-hitched breeders are incapable of deciding on their own if it's necessary to be tested.

This is typical. The government must at all costs avoid addressing (or even recognizing the existence of) that one ever-hated, ever-feared minority that must deal daily with the AIDS threat--the gay male.

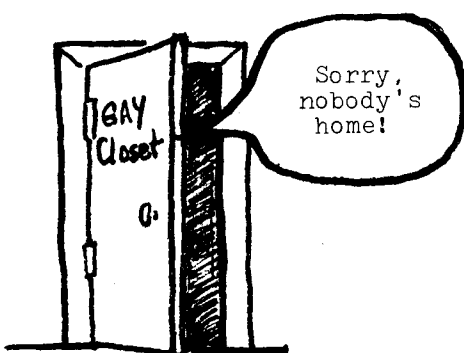
Since the legislature is preoccupied with the breeding segment of the population, let's you and me deal with this issue from a gay man's point of view. Given all those fun flings I had in the past, should I take the AIDS antibody test? Even more difficult, after recently learning that an ex-lover's ex-lover died from AIDS, should I take the AIDS test?

If we carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of both taking and not taking the AIDS test, my answer and in my opinion the best answer for the vast majority of gay men is a definite "NO."

## The consequences of being seronegative

Let's suppose you decide to learn your HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) status and have the fortune to be seronegative--you have not been exposed to HIV, the AIDS virus. Now what?

Maybe you choose to remain celibate for the next thirty years to preserve your seronegative status. To me that's as painful and cruel as denying your sexuality and keeping yourself locked in the infamous gay closet.



You may decide to pursue that lifelong relationship you've always wanted. So suppose you and that gorgeous young blond friend of yours are getting serious. Are you going to require him to take the test before you "go all the way"? Or possibly your partner-to-be "guarantees" to you that he is seronegative. I cannot imagine a budding relationship in which the level of trust would be sufficiently established that you would automatically accept his word on his HIV status.

It would be even more difficult to learn that your new romantic interest is seropositive. Even though you're well-educated about the transmission of AIDS, you must still wonder about the degree of the risk you would be taking. After all, SAFE SEX is not a 100% guarantee against transmission. Will the risk prevent you from developing a relationship and possibly losing the love of your life?

If you are currently in a monogamous relationship, you must face similar problems. If you test negative but your partner tests positive, you must face the fact that this will put a serious strain on your relationship. Facing the fact that the odds are better than fifty-fifty that your lover will develop AIDS will probably be one of the biggest challenges you've ever faced in your life.

Even if you and your lover discover that you are both seronegative, the decision for you to stop taking precautions against the transmission of AIDS will not be easy. Each of you must fully trust the other to be exclusively monogamous and to immediately reveal any "straying from the path." Not many gay relationships are ready to handle the degree of communication and trust that this would require.

So if you test seronegative, your problems with AIDS are not over. It is almost certain that you will have to continue practicing SAFE SEX, the same as if you never got the test in the first place.

## The consequences of being seropositive

Let's now look at the darker side of the coin. You've chosen to learn your HIV status and have discovered that you are seropositive.

First, what does this mean? It does not mean that you have or will develop AIDS or ARC (AIDS Related Complex). However, you have been exposed to HIV--the AIDS virus--and hence may in the future develop AIDS or ARC.

What are your chances of developing AIDS if you are seropositive? No one is sure, but the odds have been continually revised upwards over the years.

One of the best studies pursuing the answer to this question is the City Clinic Study out of San Francisco. This is the oldest of all AIDS research efforts, being based on blood donations from 1978. At that time, gay men seeking treatment at city clinics for sexually transmitted diseases were recruited in an attempt to develop a vaccine against hepatitis B. Over 6,700 samples were frozen and stored. About one-third of these have been tested for the HIV infection. Many seropositive donors have been followed for nine years to determine how HIV infection has affected their health.

Paul O'Malley, one of the principle researchers for the City Clinic Study, provides the following estimates. Within the first five years after HIV infection, about 2% will develop AIDS in each year. So after five years, about 10% of those that tested positive will actually have AIDS. Beginning with the sixth year after infection, another 10% of the seropositive will develop AIDS annually. So about 20% of those infected will develop AIDS within six years, 30% will develop AIDS within seven years, and so on.

What percentage of the HIV infected will ultimately develop AIDS within their lifetimes? About 50-60%, and maybe even more.

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# do you want to know?

Page 9

So if you are seropositive, you are most likely to develop AIDS five to ten years after the original infection. This is a cruel disease.

Obviously if you choose to take the AIDS antibody test and discover you are seropositive, you must first deal with an emotional trauma much greater than the one caused when you were uncertain about your HIV status. The severity of your reaction is hard to predict, even if you think you are prepared for it.

Consider for example the remarks of a Los Angeles gay man who has been active in AIDS service groups for several years. "I fully expected the result, but I never imagined that my response would be so severe. I've counseled hundreds of men who test positive, but when it came to confirming for myself what I had presumed to be true, well, it really stressed me out. If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't take the test."

If you have tested positive, you do have the advantage of having an early warning that you may develop AIDS. This allows you to pursue treatment as early as possible. But at best, I think this is just a small ray of hope in the fight to beat the odds. The treatment will be experimental; you have no guarantee of its efficacy. Furthermore, you will be risking side effects that can be severe. And of course, experimental treatments must be available in your area. Those living in rural areas may have to uproot their lives if they choose this path.

Finally, you should realize that others will also have to deal with your positive test result. Your lover, your family, and your friends--while invaluable in helping you deal with your trauma--will also be facing their own severe problems and reactions to the possibility that you may develop AIDS.

## The risk of taking the test

If you choose to take the AIDS antibody test, be sure to do so absolutely anonymously.

Let's face it. Generally speaking, the breeding population is still ignorant on the subject of AIDS. If it becomes known that you have taken the AIDS antibody test, you risk discrimination in the workplace and in your personal life.

This can happen easier than you think. You go to your personal physician for AIDS testing. Do you really want this fact to be recorded in your medical record?

Despite the confidentiality between patient and physician, there have been cases where this information has been leaked to the employer.

More likely is the discrimination you would face if you ever change employers and hence your medical insurance. Of course, when you apply for more health, life, or disability insurance, insurance companies usually obtain access to your medical records. The information that you were tested for AIDS may be used to turn down requests for coverage or benefits.

Don't kid yourself--insurance companies have one of the biggest and most consistent records of discrimination against gay men and PWAs (people with AIDS). Just consider some of the pending cases in the accompanying articles; they will give you a taste of what might happen when a potential insurance company notices you've been tested for AIDS.

Naturally do not expect the law to protect you. The obscenities committed by the Reagan administration and the Meesian Justice Department when dealing with the AIDS issue have been well documented. (For example, see Ferdydurke's review of Randy Shilts' book And The Band Played On last issue.)

If you test positive, you must be extremely careful in revealing this information. After all, people do talk. As Mark Senak, legal director for the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, told the New York Times, "A positive test result, if disseminated, is like being branded with a yellow star. It not only marks an individual as uninsurable but can have a devastating impact on that person's ability to obtain housing, employment and financial services."

## What's a Gay man to do?

AIDS is an ugly disease. There are no easy ways to deal with this plague that has struck to the heart of the gay lifestyle.

If you don't get tested, it is true that you must constantly deal with the uncertainty of not knowing. Whenever any physical problem arises--no matter how small--you wonder if you are coming down with AIDS. But in my opinion, the costs and risks that you must deal with when you choose to learn your HIV status offer nothing better and are usually far worse than this uncertainty.

If you choose not to know and are sexually active, you must assume that you are seropositive. It is immoral to risk passing this disease on to somebody else. SAFE SEX is a must, even if you are in a monogamous relationship. Although at times this has been inconvenient, my one-and-only lover and I have discovered a few advantages to using lubricated condoms.



So I choose not to know my HIV status. If I develop AIDS or ARC, I will deal with that situation then and only then. There are far more important things for me to do than to deal with the consequences of the results of the AIDS antibody test.

We must continue to fight against the stupidity of mandatory AIDS testing. We must continue to work for increased funding for education and research. We must continue to battle for our constitutional rights in the legislatures and in the courts. We must continue to care for our brethren that have been struck down in the prime of their lives by this disease.

The gay community has always faced pain, sorrow, and hardship in this homophobic society. We shall overcome this holocaust also.

--The Balrog

The source for some of the facts presented above was Michael Helquist, "Your HIV Status," The Advocate, issues 476 and 477, July 7 and July 21, 1987. Michael Helquist writes "The Helquist Report," a regular feature on the developments in the battle against AIDS, for The Advocate. He is also the editor of the newsletter FOCUS: A Guide to AIDS Research and of Working with AIDS: A Resource Guide for Mental Health Professionals.

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# Miscellaneous AIDS outrages

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the National Gay Rights Activists (NGRA) are only two of many gay and lesbian groups that are trying to get the legislators and the courts to once-and-for-all recognize our full and uncompromised constitutional rights. The following reprints are a small sample of the AIDS-related cases these groups are pursuing.

The success of Lambda and NGRA depends on our support. Please consider doing your part in the struggle for gay and lesbian rights by using the forms on pages 8 and 9 to join these groups today.

## Renner v. Bankers National Life Insurance Co.

[Lambda is] asking the Superintendent of Insurance to reconsider her denying the relief requested in Lambda's administrative complaint filed several months ago in this case. Lambda represents an Ohio man who obtained insurance through a [Washington,] DC agent, but was then asked to lie and sign a statement that the policy was solicited in Virginia, so as to circumvent the DC AIDS discrimination law. The agent, Robert S. Clements, even sent the form with the witness line filled in prior to signing by Renner.

Despite a record before her that included an altered document, a witness form signed before the principle had signed, and a letter stating that the purpose in making the form look like it was from Virginia was to circumvent the DC AIDS law, the Superintendent found insufficient proof of fraud so as to require a hearing, and failed to see the relevance of the AIDS law. The procedure for reconsideration and political solutions are being investigated; Judith Schaeffer, a partner at Dickstein, Shapiro & Morin, is handling the case for Lambda as a firm pro bono project.

--Reprinted from Lambda Update,  
Fall 1987, p. 9.

## Texas insurance Discrimination

NGRA has filed a discrimination complaint against the National Home Life Assurance Company for refusing to sell life insurance to a Texas man who named his same-gender roommate as his beneficiary. National Home is requiring Gregor MacGregor to prove that his beneficiary has an "insurable interest" in his life, because the two men are "unrelated." NGRA's complaint has been filed with the Texas State Board of Insurance. NGRA is alleging that National Home is using the beneficiary issue as a smokescreen for weeding out gay men. Such discrimination directly violates guidelines issued by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Moreover, Texas law specifically recognizes that insurance applicants have the right to name anyone they choose as a life insurance beneficiary.

--Reprinted from NGRA Newsletter,  
Summer 1987, p. 2.

## Texas insurer won't pay for AIDS

NGRA has filed a formal complaint with the Texas State Board of Insurance against Texas Bankers Life and Loan Insurance Company. According to NGRA, the Austin-based company has written in an exception to its major medical policy which declares that "we do not pay for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome."

NGRA successfully filed a similar complaint with the California Department of Insurance against American Service Life Insurance Company. ASLIC promotional materials had said the company would not cover expenses for "any disease which was sexually transmitted." As a result of NGRA's complaint, the California Department has required ASLIC to change the policy.

--Reprinted from NGRA Newsletter,  
Autumn 1987, p. 2.

## Aetna charged with illegal testing

NGRA has won a victory after filing a formal complaint with the California Department of Insurance against Aetna Life & Casualty Company. NGRA had charged the nation's fourth largest insurer with requiring Bob Machado of San Jose to submit to the HIV antibody test. California law forbids insurers to use the test.

Following an investigation, the Department of Insurance ordered Aetna to process Mr. Machado's application without requiring an antibody test. The Department has also ordered Aetna to notify all of its California agents and underwriters that it is illegal to require California applicants to submit to the HIV antibody test.

--Reprinted from NGRA Newsletter,  
Summer 1987, p. 3.

## INALIENABLE RIGHTS FOR ALIENS

Those of you who were paying attention may have noticed the passing of an era this month - the McCarthy Era. Congress has, without much fanfare at all, unseated the McCarren-Walter Act of 1952.

The McCarren-Walter Act was passed during a time when foreign imports - ideas, people - were even more unwelcome than they are now. The act covered a broad variety of dissidents and free thinkers, allowing the State Department to bar foreigners from crossing our hallowed borders on any of thirty-three grounds. Cause for exclusion could range from having committed genuine war crimes to having the audacity to disagree with U.S. policies abroad. The state tried to prohibit activists, pacifists, and assorted interesting people (including a Nobel Prize winner or two) from getting their ideas across by preventing them from doing it in person. What a long-running embarrassment it has been. Congress managed to put one over on the Reagan regime by sneaking the package of bills granting aliens certain inalienable rights onto a bill granting the State Department funding. If our loving but firm President tried to veto the measure as he otherwise might, there would be no human rights for foreigners but, also, no money for the State. What a deftly ironic twist to a bitter story.

The new bills expire in March, 1989, by which time a replacement should be ready for the McCarren-Walter Act. The newly enacted bills simply require the State Department to treat foreigners entering the U.S. just like real people with rights just like you and me - unless U.S. laws have been or will be broken. Then they are back to square one.

Situations such as the extra-legal detention of Cuban immigrants in federal prisons for past sentence time limits might now be avoided. The sad exception to this burst of seasonal goodwill is the PLO, which is barred from setting up any new offices in this country. I guess ya just can't trust them shiftless Palestinians to be right thinking people, huh? Perhaps recent events in the Israeli occupied territories will broaden a few minds and open a few eyes.

We can all help to broaden some minds in Washington, D.C.. Write your Congressperson - NOW. Tell them that Palestinians are people too. The construction of the new act is under way. Human rights for the Palestinians in our country could still be included. Despite some strong evidence to the contrary, I still believe we have a representational government. Get out there and be represented.

--Raggedy Angst

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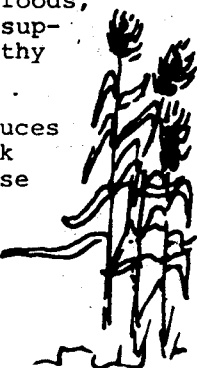
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# Principal victim of police state tactics

Politics, it is said, makes strange bedfellows. So, apparently, do state investigations. Four rather unlikely sources have recently teamed up and have managed to fully deprive the principal of a Normal elementary school of his constitutional right of due process under the law, the right to a trial by a jury of his peers, and the right to face his accusers. All in one fell swoop. Not a bad day's work.

Let me introduce you to the players in this unlikely (and unconstitutional) drama.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The police state's fantasy-turned-reality.

The Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI). The I-Search folks who put pictures of missing little children on milk cartons to scare the daylights out of other little children.

The Unit Five school system. The "we don't have problems like that in Normal" educators and administrators.

The Pantagraph. The local bastion of truth, justice, and completely unbiased journalism.

The principal. A well-liked and respected educator currently under investigation.

(Let it be noted that this Commie rag, this archetype of yellow journalism, will not participate in this tawdry little affair by printing the name of the principal. Some of us still believe in constitutionality and in journalistic integrity.)

All right, now that you have the players straight, here's the story itself.

It seems there is a DCFS/DCI investigation underway concerning two charges of alleged child sexual abuse against this principal. Now, don't get me wrong—I don't like sexual abusers much more than anybody else. And if the man is charged with a crime, and if he's arrested, and if he's arraigned, and if he's indicted, and if he's tried by a court of law, and if he's found guilty, I think he should fry.

But I'm also rather partial to the way the system works—all the little pieces in order. It's kind of why they call it due process.

Unfortunately, following the due process takes a while. It is much more effective and much less time-consuming to try a person in the press. At least that seems to be the message from DCFS and DCI. That way you don't have to bother with all those lawyers and court appearances. And you don't have to bother with proof.

Proof seems to be one of those minor inconveniences that DCFS, DCI, the Pantagraph, and Unit Five decided to overlook in their zeal to conduct a fair and impartial investigation.

DCFS is mandated by the state of Illinois to investigate all allegations of child abuse within 48 hours of the report. Their investigation is supposed to remain within the confines of the Department unless the case is "founded," at which time the police are called in.

DCI is getting more and more involved in sexual abuse cases which used to be the domain of local police forces. They see themselves fast becoming the sexual abuse "experts" in the state of Illinois. Why? There's money in them thar charges, and DCI wants it. They want to be able to materialize on the spot and solve crimes with the finesse of Perry Mason or the machismo of Dirty Harry. But even Perry and Harry keep their investigations confidential until they find out if they even have a case.

The Pantagraph has a strict policy of not reporting a suspect's name until he or she has been arraigned. Even if they have been arrested, the paper's stated policy is not to print the name until the person

has been formally charged. Apparently that policy does not hold true for state investigations. The principal had not been arrested or arraigned; the investigation of the allegations was not even complete (and is still not complete, as of this writing).

But none of that seemed to matter to the Pantagraph, because it printed a story of the investigation, peppering it the principal's name and the particulars of the allegations, for everyone to see. The principal had, at the time, not even been informed about what the investigation involved. He presumably found out over his morning coffee at the same moment everyone in the county found out.

Unit Five schools are not clean and pure through all of this, either. Not only did they suspend the principal, but the refused to tell him why he was being suspended. But they seemed to have very little trouble spilling everything they knew when the Pantagraph came sniffing around for news.

And the most recent outrage in all of this is that the State's Attorney has been brought in to make the line-up complete. A McLean County grand jury has been hearing testimony about this case for the past two weeks. Yet the principal has still not been formally charged, arrested, or arraigned.

The state has blown this case altogether—if, indeed, they ever had a case. The problem of trying a case in the press is that the entire community is asked to render a verdict. And this community has spoken.

It really doesn't matter at this point whether the principal is guilty of

child sexual abuse or not. The jury of his peers heard the evidence and has decided he is not guilty.

They have found guilt, however. They looked at the facts at hand and have found DCFS, DCI, the Pantagraph, and Unit Five schools guilty of slander, libel, infringing an individual's constitutional rights, over-stepping their authority, and simple stupidity. The jury is still out (so to speak) on whether or not the State's Attorney's office will receive the same verdict.

The fact that it was not a fair and impartial jury is immaterial. It wasn't a fair and impartial trial, either. If the state had followed the rules so clearly set forth in the constitution, this case might have had a very different outcome.

As it is, the principal has the entire community supporting him. And DCFS, DCI, the Pantagraph, Unit Five schools, and the State's Attorney's office are finding themselves in a bed of thorns instead of roses.

Hopefully, the various arms of the state have learned a very valuable lesson through all of this: You sleep with pigs, you start to smell like pigs.

And I think it's pretty clear that the community at large has also learned a valuable lesson: If it looks like a pig, and it smells like a pig, and it sounds like a pig, it either is a pig, or it's a duck in a pig's suit, and that's pretty strange, too.

--Deborah Wiatt

## Rape Crisis Center training

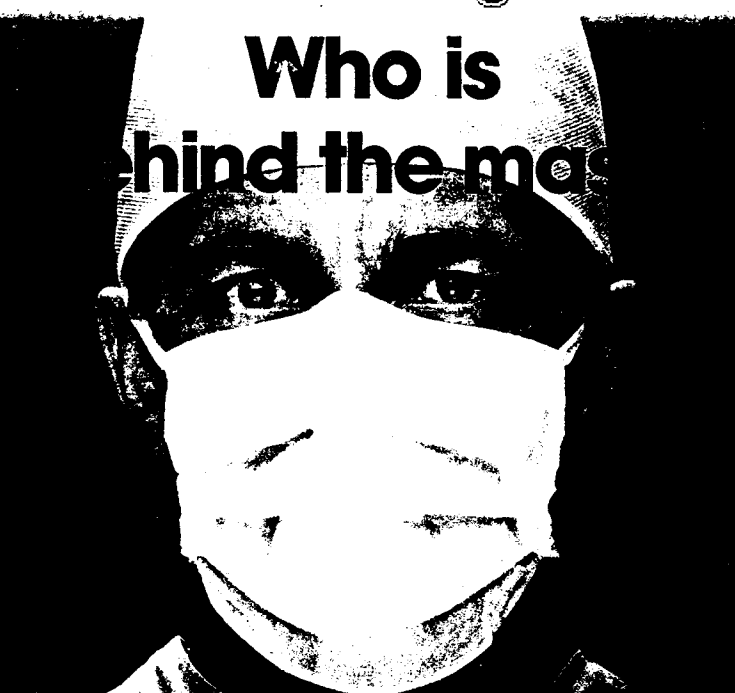
The Rape Crisis Center of McLean County will hold a training for new volunteers on Saturday, February 6; Sunday, February 7; Saturday, February 13; and Sunday, February 14.

All training will take place in the first floor lounge of Fairchild Hall, on the ISU campus. The Saturday sessions will be held from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and the Sunday sessions will be held from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Volunteers are needed to help in all aspects of the organization. Both women and men are invited and encouraged to become volunteers. There is no charge for the training, nor is there a minimum commitment of time for the volunteers, but individuals must be able to attend all four days of the training to become volunteers.

For more information, call PATH at 827-4005 and ask for the Rape Crisis Center.

## What's wrong with this ad?



A surgeon, of course. But when you look more closely behind the mask, whom will you find? Much more than a pair of skilled hands!

A fully trained surgeon is someone who has gone through years of preparation and training to earn the appropriate qualifications... and the privilege of your trust.

And for every minute your surgeon spends in the operating room, he or she will invest hours reviewing your condition and concerns... considering after native treatments and determining which approach would be best for you... consulting with colleagues... talking with you... and, of course, making sure that your every question is answered... before and after the procedure.

An operation, no matter how simple, is never a "routine" thing to the person having it... or the person performing it.



American College of Surgeons

Get the facts about surgical care.

You can learn more about how to choose a surgeon, question you should ask before consenting to an operation, and things you should consider in deciding whether to seek a second surgical opinion, through a series of free brochures from the American College of Surgeons. Just fill in your name and address below, then mail this coupon to: American College of Surgeons

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Please allow 4 weeks for delivery.

Modern Maturity, October-November 1986, featured this reassuring ad by the American College of Surgeons. Does it reflect the real service people receive from surgeons locally? For example, have you ever heard a woman say her O.B. helped her avoid a Cesarean by suggesting "alternative treatments" such as squatting, nipple stimulation by her partner, or relaxing in a warm water pool? Are clients really "talked to," something the ACS says surgeons do? Notice, however, that the ad places it as #4, after "consulting with colleagues." The description continues: "Of course, making sure that your every question is answered... before and after the procedure." Is there respectful listening to and answering of questions being done as "standard procedure" in Bloomington-Normal? Such true care could only help both clients and caregivers. It would also help prevent malpractice suits. We need to have that part of our healing circle which is the allopathic surgeon more responsive, humane, and healed. The ACS ads apparently are starting to reflect this concern.

--A concerned citizen



# 00 Girls 00 on Review

Welcome to the Post Amerikan's newest regular feature (or at least as regular as things ever get around here). From our comic book spread a few issues back, we learned that there are a lot of comic book readers out there. Since four of our freshman staff are avid collectors, it was only natural that we start a column to address the interests of this subculture. We'll try to give you our opinions on at least one comic book each issue, and hopefully make it easier for you panelologists to decide where to spend your hard-earned shekels each month.

So without further ado, let's take a look at:

**The Trouble with Girls**  
 Malibu Comics  
 Monthly, \$1.75, BW, 24 pages.  
 "Recommended for Mature Readers"  
 Script: Will Jacobs  
 and Gerald Jones  
 Pencils: Tim Hamilton  
 Inks: Dave Garcia

While shopping to add to my collection of early Marvels, I stumbled onto a few copies of The Trouble with Girls. Seeing the cover blurb "All the Sex and Twice the Violence," I figured this comic would make a wonderful target for a Post review. I purchased issues #1, #3, and the current issue #4. Unfortunately, I've not been able to locate issue #2, but the stories are sufficiently self-contained that this has not been a detriment to my enjoyment of the comic.

Have you seen the Pierce-Brosnan-spy-spoof-diet-soft-drink commercial? Imagine that commercial as a monthly comic book, and you have The Trouble with Girls.

Trouble always happens to Girls--Les Girls, that is. All our hero Les ever wanted was a quiet simple life, but it was never to be. At puberty he became one gorgeous hunk of man, tall and muscular, with a strong chin, innocent smile, and cool, piercing eyes. This made life difficult for Lester Girls, having all his female teachers keep him after school and

scoring 420 points in the homecoming football game.

As an adult, Girls' problems continued, "starting with the fiasco in the airplane toilet with Brooke Shields [and] Bianca Jagger." Girls has never been able to get a job; after winning several sweepstakes and a mansion in a raffle, he didn't have any incentive. No matter how hard he tries to escape it, Girls is fated to attract both unending dangers and mouthwatering women.

This scenario is the springboard for Jacobs and Jones' fun satire of the cloak-and-dagger genre. For the most part the satire works, and (with a few reservations) it's the best I've seen since the early issues of Boris the Bear.

The authors certainly have fun with every ambush/chase/fight/escape scene you can imagine. In the first issue alone, Girls must survive Arab bombs, evade KGB, CIA, SS, and PLO tails, deal with Ugandan agents, and--most deadly of all--gun down three assassins from the Sashimi Blade (an arcane order of sushi chefs) while making expert love to a buxom redhead.

However the authors try to get far too many laughs from sexual innuendo. Exchanges like "I bet it's as long as my forearm and as big around as a baseball bat," to which Girls replies, "Well what if it is? Is it my fault?" get very boring very quickly.

Furthermore, Jacobs and Jones seem to enjoy the sexism in their comic too much. The only purpose that women serve in this comic is to pursue Girls and his blood-brother Apache Dick, and it is often hard to tell if the authors are making fun of sexism or are simply being sexist.

If this comic book is going to have any substantial run, there must be major improvements in both the stories and characterizations. So far, there is no direction to the story Jacobs and Jones are telling. Any small tidbit, such as Girls wanting to apply for a job as a fitting room supervisor, is

currently a sufficient excuse for Girls to encounter an issue's worth of assassins and women. After only three issues, I found myself getting bored by this scenario.

There are promising characters that the authors will hopefully feature more in the future. Maxi Scoops, the reporter who desperately wants the Lester Girls story, Shots Hoolihan, Girls' favorite bartender, and the above-mentioned Apache Dick are for now simply background cardboard characters that are dying for greater development.

The artistic contribution from Hamilton and Garcia receives higher praise than the story. The layouts are clean and occasionally innovative. Unlike many black-and-white comic books, the characters are easy to recognize and the artwork is solid and uncluttered. In fact, the only complaint I have is that there are a few problems with anatomy and facial expressions. Keep an eye out for future work by these up-and-coming artists.

The Trouble with Girls is good satire for the comic book medium, but it suffers from the same problems that other attempts have had. As a monthly series, it will be difficult to keep the basic premise fresh and interesting. Assuming you can stomach the exaggerated sexism, it's worthwhile reading for one or two issues, but it will take more than the current effort to convince me that the Lester Girls story deserves monthly attention.

--The Balrog

\* \* \* \* \*

Can't find The Trouble with Girls or some other hard-to-find comic? Ask our advertisers; they'll be glad to help. And don't forget to tell them you saw it in the Post Amerikan.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Teen dance Feb. 20

Planned Parenthood's Teens Care Too will sponsor a teen dance in Bloomington's Miller Park Pavilion on Saturday, February 20, from 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm. The staff and volunteers from Planned Parenthood will be on hand to serve refreshments.

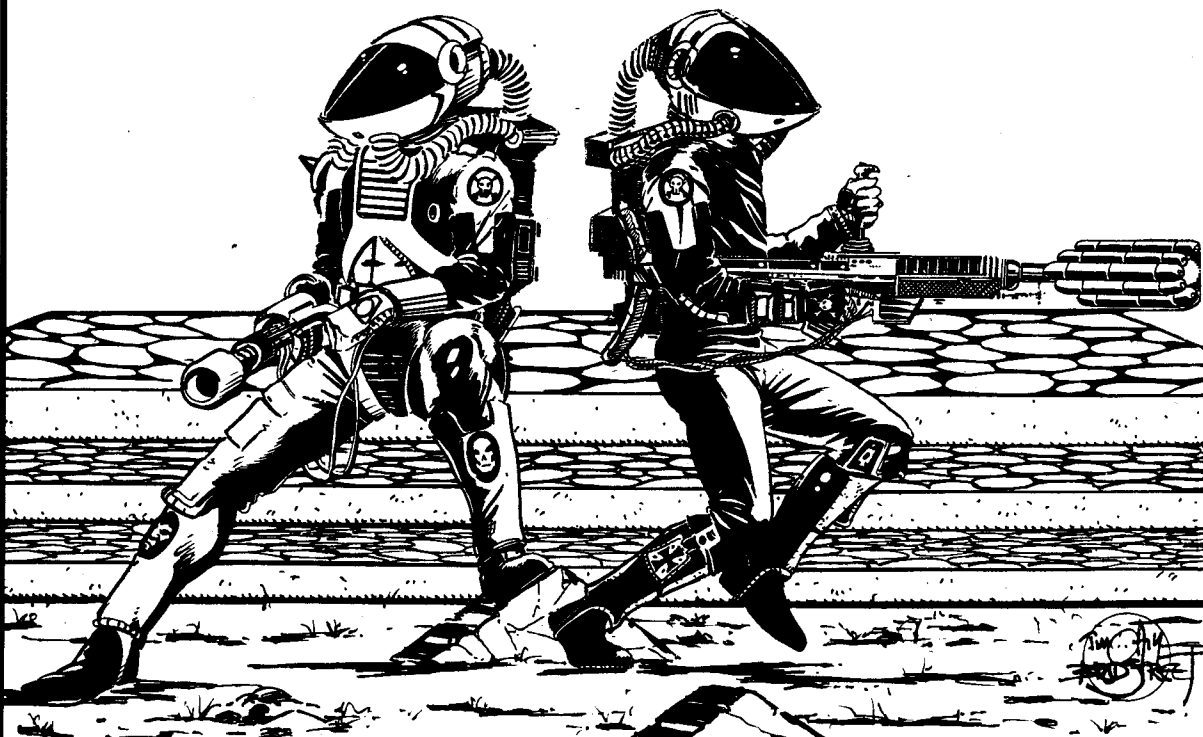
James "Rollin'J" Ahart will deejay the dance, and F & G Lighting and Sound will provide the special audio/visual effects. Although a week after Valentine's Day, the theme for the dance will be "Love Carefully"--a message the Teens Care Too feel should be remembered every day of the year. The dance will feature door prizes, food, fun, and, of course, dancing.

This will be the third Teens Care Too-sponsored community dance for teenagers. Teens Care Too is a group of teen volunteers who act as ambassadors for Planned Parenthood in area junior and senior high schools.

The Teens Care Too dance is open to all McLean County teenagers and is free of charge. If you are a teenager who loves to dance, keep February 20 in mind. Bring your friends to the Teens Care Too dance and get ready to rock!

For more information about the dance or about Teens Care Too, call Carol at Planned Parenthood, 827-4368.

COMICS AREN'T JUST FOR KIDS  
ANYMORE



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454-7557



# Balrog's best

If some of you adults out there haven't picked up a comic book since your adolescence, you're missing something. DC comics have been revamping many of your favorites from the 60s. Marvel offers The Nam, a series detailing the events of the Vietnam War. There are now many independents, putting out some of the best work I've ever seen in the medium. (Beware--there are also independents that put out just plain ugly junk for the unsuspecting buyer.) So if just for the sake of nostalgia, try reading a few of today's comic books; you may be pleasantly surprised. If you need some help, here are my favorites.

## Best DC comic:

### *Wonder Woman*

As we reported in the Post a while back, Wonder Woman is back to her mythological roots. The Greek gods continue to play a major role in Diana's life, including "The Challenge of the Gods" that results when Zeus desires to "reward" Wonder Woman with a "private audience."

George Perez's work on both story and art is magical, and the characters (especially the women) are full of personality and life. The upcoming meeting (and possible romance?) between Superman and Wonder Woman is certain to be of interest to all DC fans.

## Best Marvel comic: ????

This is a tough one, because Marvel has been putting out consistently good but not great superhero schlock. My recommendation would be to keep an eye out for anything done by Peter David, Louise Simonson, or Walt Simonson.

Peter David has breathed new life into The Incredible Hulk, and Louise Simonson has done the same with X-Factor. Both books are now worthwhile reading. Walt Simonson's recent run on Thor was the best book Marvel had to offer last year; if you haven't read this yet, pick up these back issues the next time your comic book shop has a sale.

## Best black-and-white

### independent: *Concrete*

Concrete is a gorgeous book offered by writer/artist Paul Chadwick and Dark Horse Comics. The setting is our normal, everyday world with one small exception--while exploring

a mysterious cave during a hiking trip, a political speechwriter's brain is transplanted into a massive concrete-like body with incredible eyesight. The aliens that did this have left our world, probably forever, leaving our hero in this unusual situation. Blessed and cursed with this new body, Concrete wishes to dare to do great things.

Paul Chadwick lovingly details the adventures of Concrete's adjustment to this new life, not just with beautiful artwork and superb characterization, but with more emotion and feeling than most comics have ever seen. You will experience nothing but pure pleasure and enjoyment when you read Concrete.

## Best color independent:

### *Grendel*

Matt Wagner. Comico. Grendel. Incredible. A work of genius. Read it.

No comic book has moved me more than the recent issues of Matt Wagner's Grendel. Put simply, Grendel is a living nightmare--a spirit/creature/alien/demon/possession/obsession of pure, simple, incessant hatred. In the current issue, an aged Captain Wiggins refers to this horror as "... the chill ... the awful chill ... that three times was Grendel."

As he relates the saga of Grendel, Matt Wagner continues to experiment, explore, and redefine the boundaries of storytelling in the comic book medium. The artwork makes an essential contribution, with the artists and their styles changing as the human manifestation of Grendel changes.

Now is the perfect time to begin reading this series, as it begins a four-part tale of the first manifestation of Grendel with story and art by Matt Wagner. Please note that parental guidance is recommended for younger readers.

--The Balrog

Warm hands, Cold Cash!



## Help with heat bills

Community Action is again helping with fuel bills through the Illinois Home Energy Assistance Program (IHEAP). This program is funded by the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs and is designed to assist low-income households by providing a one-time payment toward their main heating bill.

To apply for the program, you will need to bring proof of social security numbers for every member of the household, gross income for all household members for the past 30 days, and your most current heating and electric bills. People who do not pay directly for their heating (except those who receive a subsidy for their rent) may also be eligible for assistance.

IHEAP has an Emergency Services Component which is designed to assist income-eligible households that have been terminated from their main heat source and those who use propane or fuel oil and have less than 10% remaining in their tank. Emergency payments will be made only if the household has made a "good faith" payment during the previous 90-day period. A "good faith" payment is defined as making a payment to the household's primary and secondary electric vendor of not less than 10% of the household's income during the previous 90 days.

Applicants are helped on a first come, first served basis. The amount of assistance is based on income, number of people residing in the household, and type of primary heat source. Payments range from \$105.00 to \$395.00.

To make an appointment for assistance or to find out the specific income guidelines for assistance, call Community Action at 829-0691 in Bloomington or 844-3201 in Pontiac.

## Volunteer tutors needed

Volunteers are needed to be tutors for school age children. Tutoring help is needed especially in the subject areas of math, English, reading, and spelling. Most youths will be grade school age.

The requirement for a tutor includes only one hour--one day each week from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

The tutoring program will begin the week of January 24. The program is sponsored by the Bloomington Housing Authority, Western Avenue Community Center, and the Laurence Irvin Neighborhood Center.

If you would like to be a tutor, or if you would like more information, please call Donna Nickels or Myra Samuels at 829-3360.

## Swamp Thing.™ Suspense that will haunt you in your sleep.

It is a living thing. It has a soul. It has a face. It breathes. It eats. And, at night, beneath a crawling ground fog with the luster of vaporized pearl, it dreams. A gothic horror series by renowned British writer, Alan Moore.

DC Comics. A whole new universe awaits you!

## Metropolis Books

Old store

New location

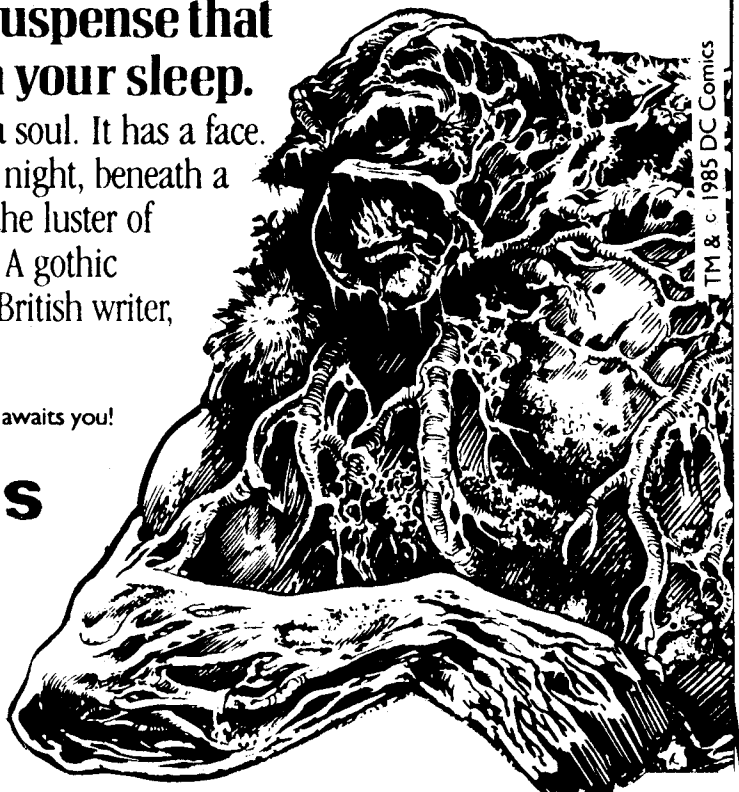
4 blocks south of campus

1203 A Main St. Normal

NEXT TO NORMAL MILITARY SURPLUS

SHOW THIS AD FOR 1/3 DISCOUNT ON NEW COMICS, BACK ISSUES, ROLE PLAYING GAMES

Offer good through March 15



TM & © 1985 DC Comics

# Captain America- -In step with the times

Captain America stands alongside Superman and Batman as one of the most memorable super-hero characters ever to appear in comic books. Unlike most of his rivals, "Cap" has no special powers, and it is mainly his image as a symbol of American patriotism which makes him popular. This same image has also caused him (and his publishers) some problems at times.

Captain America's story goes all the way back to World War II when the first issue appeared in December, 1940. Although the United States was still officially neutral, and would be for another year, the cover depicted him crashing into Adolph Hitler's headquarters and smashing the dictator in the face. There was plenty of justification apparent in the scene: the Fuehrer's office was littered with maps and files for sabotaging and invading America. Here was a comic to warm Franklin Roosevelt's heart with none of that isolationist nonsense.

## Cap and Bucky

The book was an immediate success, cashing in on the rising tide of anti-Axis sentiment. Cap was given a young sidekick named Bucky, presumably to offer the adolescent readership an easy point of identification. Captain America had his famous shield to protect him, of course, but as they waded into vast hordes of enemy troops armed with only their fists, it seems quite remarkable that neither of them ever got shot. Indeed, for Bucky and his vicarious admirers, World War II was a glorious, even fun adventure.

It was also a time of greatly apparent moral superiority. In the concluding scene of one story in Captain America Comics #10 (January, 1942) Cap and Bucky have tricked the Countess, a Nazi spy leader, into blowing up all of her own men. "You have won, Captain America! I only ask not to be tortured before you kill me," she says.

Cap replies, "I'd be expected to kill a helpless woman if I were a Nazi--but I'm not! I'm going to let you return to Germany because rats of your kind don't deserve to be in a free land--even in prison! And you can tell that Austrian paper-hanger this--tell him that our freedom has been threatened before, and we're still around to tackle anyone who thinks he can take it from us now!"

Heady stuff. I wonder if this issue ever found its way into any of our concentration camps where the Nisei (Japanese-Americans) were being held.

## Sentinels of Liberty

The writers frequently had Cap and Bucky remind the readers that their help was needed to win the war. A sort of fan club was set up, called "Captain America's Sentinels of Liberty." For only a dime, you'd get a membership card and a badge " . . . of high quality metal--the same as used by G-Men and police officers," read the ad. Wow! All you had to do was sign your name and address, promising to "help fight spies and traitors to the U.S.A."

The main efforts Cap and Bucky asked of their readers were to help in paper drives and the like. But given the mood of the times, it's not hard to imagine an ardent little Sentinel writing in to denounce Daddy for lying to the draft board or Mommy for hoarding canned goods.

## Commie Smasher

Not surprisingly, the end of the war took some of the wind out of the magazine's sales (sorry--couldn't pass that one up). Common crooks weren't nearly as exciting as Nazis and "Japs," and the title was finally cancelled early in 1950. But Korea and the Red Scare soon provided fresh material. The comic was re-started in 1954, and the cover now read, "Captain America...

Commie Smasher!"

One story from July, 1954 suggested what kind of insidious foe we were facing. A rescued G.I. prisoner named Tim says, "I'm glad this is over . . . I don't want any more war! I've had enough . . . and my nerves are shot!" Bucky says, "Doesn't sound like a guy with his fighting record, does it?"

But Cap explains, "He's been drugged with dope and that sapped his strength and weakened his resolve to fight! The question is . . . is his condition only temporary, or did it really change him into A RED?" What fiends!

Well, Cap wasn't pulling any punches against scum like that, and in the same story he pummels a "Commie" and knocks him into a burning building. Looking on with satisfaction as the victim screams and burns, Cap says, "Let's go, boys! There's nothing left for us to do here!"

## A New Beginning

Fortunately, that phase of Captain America's career ended with Joe McCarthy's demise, and for about 10 years the comic was only a memory. In the early sixties, however, Stan Lee of Marvel comics launched a whole new array of now-famous titles, including such figures as Spiderman and The Hulk.

Superheroes were selling again, this time without any obvious national crisis for them to battle. Would Captain America fit in? It would seem a waste not to use such a proven character since Marvel Comics had the rights, but everyone identified him with World War II, and this was 20 years later. Furthermore, the 50s "Commie Smasher" motif had clearly become inappropriate.

Stan Lee managed to kill two birds with one stone by writing a story in which some of his new characters (The Avengers) find Captain America frozen in an iceberg and manage to revive him. It was subsequently revealed that in the final days of World War II, he was thrown into the Arctic Sea during a battle with one of his arch-enemies, and that Bucky was killed. Any appearances of Captain America since then were written off as imposters, neatly dodging the whole McCarthy business.

Now the "real" Cap was back, with an added dimension of tragedy. Burdened with guilt over his sidekick's death, he would also have to adjust to the strange new directions the nation had taken since his disappearance.

The new (or old, depending on your point of view) Cap still found himself pitted against a Communist foe at times, but gone were the days of all-out, mindless savagery. In one story, he is faced with his Soviet counterpart, the "Red Guardian," a super-patriot from the other side of the Iron Curtain.

In the conclusion of the story, the Red Guardian finds that he has been betrayed by his own leaders. He sacrifices himself to help Captain America escape. Thus, the moral is still that Amerika is Right and the commies are the bad guys. At least the comic was ready to admit that some of them might be human, too.

## Cap and Falcon

It seems that civil rights and integration may have influenced the writers when they gave Cap a new sidekick in 1969, a black character called "The Falcon." They would probably deny this, but regardless of their motives, they were acknowledging that the nation which Captain America represents is not made up entirely of blond Nordics like himself.

It can be argued that that the Falcon fulfilled a self-imposed racial quota

in the comic book pantheon of heroes. But, when one looks at the way blacks were depicted in comics back in the 40s (huge lips, wide eyes, superstitious, stupid), it is clear that some progress was being made.

The Watergate period was one of difficult introspection for Captain America. For several issues he tried to abandon his superhero career, explaining that he was "deeply troubled by current political events." He found the world was not going to stop having problems just because he was confused.

## Second Thoughts

So, for a while he fought crime as "Nomad--the man without a country." Eventually though, he went back to being Captain America, mainly because other people kept trying to pose as him and were getting killed by his old enemies.

Following Captain America up to the present day, it's a little hard to claim any sort of historical perspective. He has continued to change. As ever, he remains a symbol of duty and self-sacrifice for the common good. But even he now admits that the interests of the America he stands for do not always coincide with those of the U.S. government.

Recently (Issue 332, August 1987), he was called in by a secret U.S. security agency and informed that henceforth, he must take orders directly from them, rather than free-lancing as he was accustomed to doing.

He thought about it long and hard, and decided that he couldn't just ignore them. Legally, the government owns the Captain America identity because he was created in a secret U.S. Army project back in World War II (according to the story). Neither could he reconcile himself to carrying out what he was certain would be illegal and amoral instructions from these CIA-types.

So he decided to quit being Captain America again, and turned his costume and shield over to them. Since then they've recruited a more politically reliable replacement for him, and the real Cap is still trying to figure out what to do.

What's the world coming to when even Captain America cannot condone the national leadership?

It's just a comic book, of course, but in its own imperfect way, Captain America's development parallels the progress of our national sense of conscience. Comic books were in color even back in 1940, but our sense of right and wrong was not; everything was in black and white--quite clear. By degrees, that has changed, and so has the hero.

--Dave Thompson

## Elder abuse

Elder abuse is a serious and often hidden problem. Elder abuse can be physical abuse, but it can also be financial or emotional.

Senior citizens are among the persons protected by the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. If you feel you are being abused or are having your finances mishandled you may wish to contact a lawyer at Prairie State Legal Services by calling (309) 827-5021 or our toll free number 1-800-874-2536.

If your case is accepted for representation you will not be charged for our services. The lawyer who you speak with will not take any action which you do not specifically authorize, and can merely provide advice if that is all you are seeking.

# Defeat Contra aid

Another Congressional vote on Contra aid is scheduled for February 3 in the House and February 4 in the Senate, pointedly undermining the Arias Peace Plan drafted in Costa Rica. This plan has strong support from the countries of the region, but the Reagan administration is discrediting their work and agitating for war.

A **NO** vote by the Congress on this Contra aid package is imperative! If the bill fails, it is unlikely that further aid will occur in 1988, according to analysts in Washington.

A strong letter-writing and telephoning campaign is beginning by the local Pledge of Resistance. Please make a stand for self-determination and peace by calling the following legislators today!

Senator Paul Simon  
462 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2152

Senator Alan Dixon  
3126 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2854

Representative Edward Madigan  
2312 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2371

Madigan can also be reached at  
2401 East Washington  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
(309) 662-9371

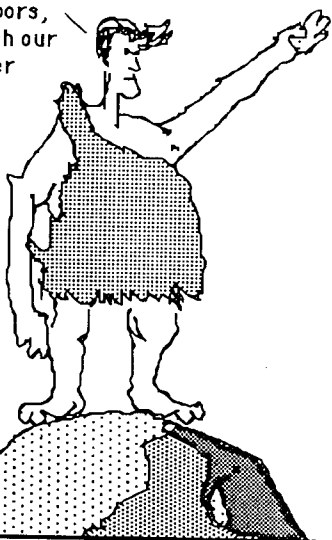
This fall, Representative Madigan pledged to vote "No" on any bill aiding the military of any Central American country. Please remind him that you are watching his vote.

Call or write today.

--Diane, for the  
Pledge of Resistance

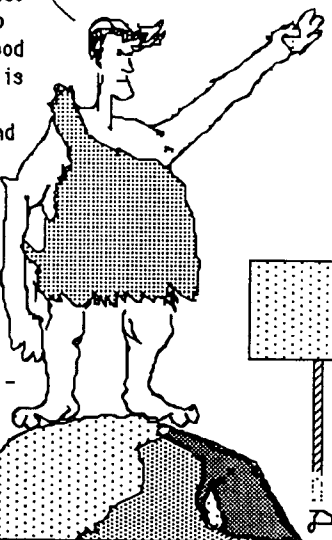
## BEFORE THE TELEPROMPTER...

If we bash in the heads  
of our neighbors,  
they will bash our  
heads in in, er  
return.



## AFTER THE TELEPROMPTER...

Our position has  
always been to  
negotiate in good  
faith. The fact is  
our neighbors  
have bigger and  
better clubs.  
All I'm trying  
to achieve is  
to correct a  
potentially  
dangerous  
imbalance in  
our relations  
with the small-  
brained and  
stunted  
people to  
our  
East...



# Pledge Rally

## RALLY WITH THE PLEDGE

A rally has been set for January 30 at 11:00 am at the overpass near ISU's Bone Student Center in Normal to protest against the latest Contra aid bill. Please come and make a public statement for peace.

At noon, the rally will move to Representative Madigan's office at 2401 East Washington in Bloomington, to remind him we're watching him for a "No" vote on the Contra aid bill. Dress warmly and bring signs and banners.

Peace is in reach!

--Diane, for the  
Pledge of Resistance

# North, Poindexter awards

Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North and Rear Admiral John Poindexter were joint winners of the 1987 Doublespeak Award for the year's most conspicuous example of deceptive language by public speakers. They earned this ironic acclaim for numerous statements made during their testimony before the congressional Select Committee investigating military assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Contras.

The award was announced at the 77th Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English in Los Angeles last November.

Colonel North was cited for using the words "residuals" and "diversions" to refer to the millions of dollars of profits which were intentionally created by overcharging Iran for arms so that the money could be used to finance the Contras.

North also said that he "cleaned things up," he was "cleaning up the historical record," he "fixed" things, and that he "took steps to ensure" that things "never came out"--meaning that he lied, destroyed official government documents, and created false documents. According to North, some documents weren't destroyed, they were "nonlog" or kept "out of the system so that outside knowledge would not necessarily be derived from having the documents themselves."

North never called any of his actions lying. Instead the colonel spoke of offering "a different version from the facts," a version he "assisted in furthering." Speaking of testimony which he helped the late CIA director William Casey to prepare, North said, "We fixed it by omission."

According to Poindexter's testimony, a person does not lie but "misleads" or "withholds information." Likewise, one engages in "secret activities" which are not the same as covert actions.

In Poindexter's world one can "acquiesce" in a shipment of weapons while at the same time not authorize the shipment. One can transfer millions of dollars of government money as a "technical implementation" without making a "substantive decision." One can also send subordinates to lie to congressional committees if one does not "micromanage" them.

For Poindexter, "outside interference" occurs when Congress attempts to fulfill its constitutional function of passing legislation. Poindexter insisted

he had not "misinformed" Congress or Cabinet members, only that he "withheld information from Congress." In the case of Cabinet officers, the admiral said, "I didn't withhold anything from them that they didn't want withheld from them."



Wright/Arms News

President Ronald Reagan was voted second place in the doublespeak ratings for conflicting statements about what he knew of the Iran-Contra dealings.

Third place went jointly to the CIA, the Department of Defense, and the State Department for calling a new doctrine of war "Low-Intensity Conflict." One U.S. Army officer stated, "Low-intensity conflict is a pseudonym for a war without full political support--a war without the needed political will."

The U.S. Navy calls low-intensity conflict "violent peace."

--Ferdydurke

Source: College English, Jan. 1988, pp. 58-59.

# God backs Robertson

As the evidence mounts that the former minister and now presidential candidate Marion G. "Pat" Robertson is prone to bear false witness, yet another revelation has been made.

In his 1972 autobiography Shout It From the Housetops, Robertson claimed that in 1966 God told him that a minister should not get involved in politics. "The Lord refused to give me the liberty," wrote Robertson. "I have called you to my ministry," he spoke to my heart, "You cannot tie my eternal purposes to the success of any political candidate'."

But that was before God became a Republican.

Last fall, Robertson's book was reissued, minus the reference to the message from God. Xian Broadcasting Network officials claim they don't know who authorized the deletion.

Robertson now says that the guidance has changed and that he has a "direct call and leading from God" to run for president.

Now, let's see: if God can change his political guidance to a sleazeball like Pat Robertson, do you suppose that he (God, not Robertson) could change his ideas and attitudes about gay people or women or the missile treaty or which side to back in Nicaragua or the thickness of Tammy Faye's mascara? Nawwwwww.

--Ferdydurke

Source: The Secular Humanist Bulletin, Nov. 1987.



# The Underground Barfly



Schooner's  
810 E. Grove St., Bloomington

Park View Inn  
1003 S. Morris Ave., Bloomington

The Post Amerikan staff has a little ritual. After our meetings which often escalate into heated ideological discussions about whether to omit the hyphen in "Post-Amerikan," we always do the civilized thing and go out together for beers and a bite to eat. Over the years, many establishments have gone in and out of favor among Post staffers as the preferred place for our after-meeting meetings. Park View Inn and Schooner's have been favorite post-meeting hangouts because they both have great food. But one place treats us right. Can you guess which one?

Sure, we're different. We sometimes look like the extras from a Fellini film. And if you walk past our table, you're liable to overhear Deborah expounding on the cuddly personality of her automobile, or Phoebe relating anecdotes about her pet birds who like to "watch," or the Balrog ragging about his boyfriend's dieting demands. But we're darned polite and big tippers.

Schooner's has great food--mostly of the fried variety. Large portions, low prices. Best buffalo wings in town (even when judged by a friend from Buffalo), great corn fritters, sandwiches and onion rings. There's not much to say about the drinks; drafts are 85 cents, mixed drinks run around a buck-fifty. You can also enjoy the novelty of the

"Schooner" of beer, a veritable goldfish bowl full of beer. If you can't drink it, you can bathe in it.

No doubt about it, Schooner's is a popular spot, frequented by townies and college students, families, couples, folks going out for drinks after work and senior citizens stretching their social security dollars. In the summer, they feature a beer garden out in the back yard, which has always been too crowded with softball teams for me to venture into. The bar inside is sort of cozy and dimly lit, contrasting with the blinding lights one is subjected to in the dining room. But my father, for one, always says he likes to see what he's eating.

Sounds good, doesn't it? But Schooner's has a downfall known as bad service. I won't argue that waiting tables is an easy or pleasant way to earn a living. But a waiter or waitress who constantly insinuates to his or her customers that they are burdensome oafs with the language of heavy sighs, shrugging shoulders, tapping pencils and monosyllabic answers to polite questions will ultimately fail to win a place in the hearts of innocent patrons. This phenomenon led the Post staffers to take our business and big tips back to our favorite little hideaway, The Park View Inn.

Located on scenic Morris Avenue, across from Miller Park, The Park View Inn is an unassuming little tavern which features the best in standard American diner food. We have been longtime fans of their delicious cheeseburgers (handmade patties), hash browns, BLTs and coleslaw. They also serve decent breakfasts. Again, there's not a lot to say about the drinks at the Park View. Drafts are 75 cents, bottles are \$1.10. But don't count on this tavern for a nightcap--they close promptly at ten on weeknights.

It's just a tiny little place, with a short bar and maybe twelve tables. There's a lot of modest charm about it, though. It reminds me of the kind of places you can find up in the woods of Northern Wisconsin, where people are friendly to strangers--you have to keep your karma in a plus situation because you never know when you are going to get stuck in a snowbank and need a push.

Three cheers for the Park View Inn's sense of responsibility in these troubled times of ours, too. Both the men's and women's restrooms are equipped with prophylactic vending machines. Yet another way to keep your karma in a plus situation.

The Park View Inn has a regular clientele of mostly working class folks and a staff which has been there for years. These people aim to please. Order your hash browns "crispy," and you get them crispy, without a big huff from the waitress. I don't know this for a fact, but I would wager that we are comparatively stranger than most folks who frequent this tavern, but they treat us with warm courtesy, just the same. Just like it should be. All over the world, I might add.

---LVD

## Clare House threatened

Clare House has served the poor and the homeless of Bloomington-Normal for 10 years. On January 7, 1988, Gene Umstattd, a neighbor of Clare House, began a campaign to stop the distribution of bags of groceries from the Catholic Worker community house by writing a letter of complaint to the Editor of the Pantagraph.

Even though the Clare House staff met with Umstattd to offer solutions to his problems, he filed a complaint with the city of Bloomington. Herman Dirks, city manager, admitted that this was the first and only complaint against Clare House in its 10 years as a shelter and food pantry.

### Complaints

The basis of the complaint is that recipients of the free bags of groceries given out by Clare House have mistakenly knocked at Umstattd's door. He also claims that he has been disturbed by people as early as 4:00 am.

The Clare House staff find the latter part of the complaint unlikely, as groceries are not distributed at that hour and signs are clearly posted that the food pantry opens at 9:00 am on Wednesdays and Fridays. And Clare House itself does not have that problem. As for the rest of the complaint, Clare House may have more visitors than the average McLean County household, but I feel that occasional guests losing their way or going to the wrong door is a reasonable annoyance to be expected in any neighborhood.

### "Business"

The city building inspector, Jim Brown, initially justified closing the pantry because Clare House is in a "residential neighborhood," and he defined giving food away as a "business."

But he had to admit that in this same "residential neighborhood" Umstattd

runs a photography studio in the house next-door to Clare House to the west, there is a lawyer's office next-door to Clare House on the east, a Kaleidoscope group home across the street, and a sheltered workshop across the alley!

(Umstattd was seen taking down his "Econo-Photo" sign just before the building inspector's visit. What a guy!)

### Help!

In order to take the heat off of Clare House, immediate action is needed to rezone the property. Please take the time to write or call Bloomington Mayor Jesse Smart and tell him you support the rezoning of Clare House's lot. You might want to mention Clare House's 10 years of charitable service and fine reputation as bonuses to the community.

The Regional Planning Commission, which will decide the fate of Clare House, will take public opinion into consideration before making any decision. A letter or phone call to Commissioner Mike Wyneken in support of rezoning would also be a great help.

Both Smart and Wyneken can be reached at Bloomington City Hall, 109 East Olive, Bloomington, IL 61701, (309) 828-7361.

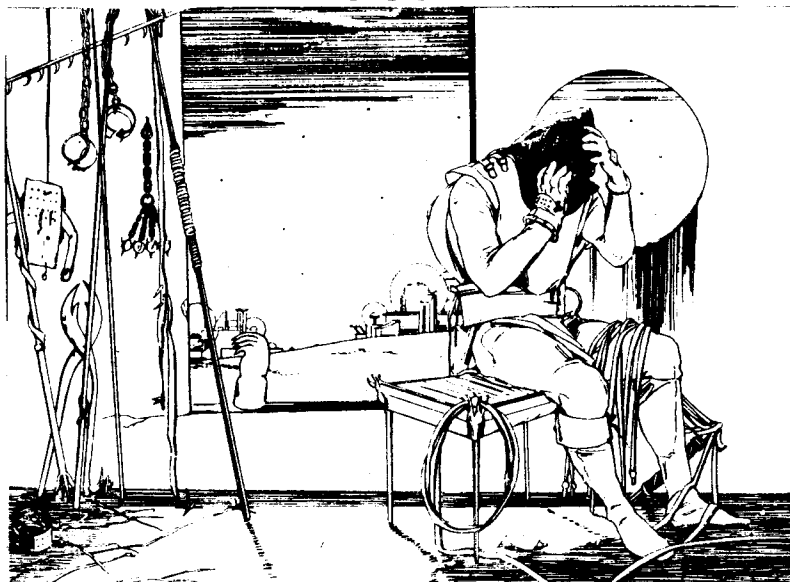
The past eight years of Reagan's administration have been especially hard on the poor, and Clare House's services are desperately needed in this community.

Thank you.

--Diane,  
a friend of Clare House

P.S. Remember, too, that Clare House can always (even now) use gifts of money or nonperishable foods.

## GOD! I FORGOT TO RENEW MY SUBSCRIPTION TO THE POST-AMERIKAN



I remembered to take out the garbage, leave food for the cat, turn off the air conditioner, pay the telephone bill, and water the philodendron. But all of that means nothing, without a Post-Amerikan subscription. My life is empty... I desperately seek thrills and find them all sordid and meaningless...

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